

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 14 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 5 and 9 are amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in claims 6, 10 and 13, respectively. Claims 6, 10 and 13 are cancelled and claims 7, 11 and 14 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0021] and [0027], for better clarity.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments merely incorporate subject matter of a dependent claim into an independent claim. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references on, and to return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement concurrently filed herewith.

The Office Action objects to claim 7. Claim 7 is amended to obviate an informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 7 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,679,613 to Mabuchi; rejects claims 7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA in view of Mabuchi further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,150 to Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe"); rejects claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA in view of Mabuchi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0073627 to Akiyama and U.S. Patent No. 6,529,250 to Murakami et al. ("Murakami"); rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA in view of Mabuchi, Akiyama and Murakami further in view of Watanabe; rejects claims 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA in view of

Mabuchi, Akiyama, Murakami and U.S. Patent No. 6,443,585 to Saccomanno; and rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA in view of Mabuchi, Akiyama, Murakami and Saccomanno, further in view of Watanabe. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 5 and 9 are amended, as outlined above, to incorporate the subject matter of claims 6, 10 and 13, respectively. The applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest "wherein the reflector plate has a reflectance that matches with a reflectance of the second liquid crystal display element," as previously recited in claims 6, 10 and 13, and currently recited in claims 1, 5 and 9.

The Office Action asserts, when rejecting claim 6, that Mabuchi discloses, at Fig. 4 and col. 4, lines 38-55, a reflector plate 18 that has a reflectance matched with the reflectance of a liquid crystal display panel 20, referring to lights L1-L3 shown in Fig. 4. However, such an assertion is inaccurate.

Mabuchi discloses, at Fig. 4 and col. 4, lines 38-55, a light L1 reflected by an LCD panel 20 towards a display panel 22. Mabuchi also discloses a light L2 reflected by a reflection sheet 18 toward the display panel 22. However, Mabuchi only discloses directing lights reflected from the LCD panel 20 and the reflection sheet 18 toward the display panel 22. Mabuchi does not disclose or suggest a match between the reflectance of the LCD panel 20 and the reflection sheet 18. Thus, Mabuchi only discloses light reflected from an object, but does not disclose or suggest the reflectance of the object. Therefore, Mabuchi does not disclose or suggest "wherein the reflector plate has a reflectance that matches with a reflectance of the second liquid crystal display element," as recited in claims 1, 5 and 9.

AAPA, Akiyama, Murakami, Saccomanno and Watanabe do not supply the subject matter lacking in Mabuchi. Therefore, AAPA, Mabuchi, Akiyama, Murakami, Saccomanno and Watanabe, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 5 and 9.

Claims 7, 11, 12 and 14 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1, 5 and 9, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite. For example, the applied references, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest "wherein the reflector plate has an area partially formed thereon so that the reflectance of the reflector plate gradually decreases according to a distance from the second liquid crystal display element," as recited in claims 7, 11 and 14.

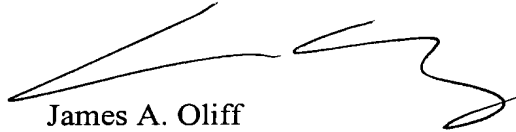
The Office Action rejects claim 7, asserting that Watanabe discloses, at col. 8, lines 21-39 and col. 9, lines 11-17, a reflection means 4h having a reflectance gradually varying at a given area close to a liquid crystal display element 2. However, the asserted "reflection means" is an uneven portion of a substrate 4a. See Fig. 6 and col. 8, lines 21-39. The substrate 4a of Watanabe corresponds to the "light conductive plate" of claim 1. Watanabe's uneven portion 4h is not a separate "reflector plate." Thus, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest "wherein the reflector plate has an area partially formed thereon so that the reflectance of the reflector plate gradually decreases according to a distance from the second liquid crystal display element," that is associated with the "reflector plate," instead of "a light conductive plate."

For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo  
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/axl

Attachment:  
Information Disclosure Statement

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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